



November 2, 2016

Water Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Branch  
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RECEIVED

NOV 07 2016

WATER ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE  
ASSURANCE BRANCH, EPA, REGION 5

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request  
Private Water Supply Sampling  
Markham, Illinois**

Dear FOIA Officer:

**Weaver Consultants Group North Central, LLC** is requesting the analytical data for private water well sampling conducted in the vicinity of the property located at the southwest corner of 160<sup>th</sup> Street and Dixie Highway in Markham, Illinois. The Property is located south of 160<sup>th</sup> Street, west of Dixie Highway, north of the Calumet Union Drainage Ditch, and east of Western Avenue, as identified in the attached map. The Property is located within the northwest quarter of Section 19, Township 36 North, Range 14 East of the Third Principal Meridian in Cook County, Illinois.

According to a USEPA Summary Memo for CERCLIS ID: ILN000510334, dated March 11, 2011 to Douglas E. Ballotti, acting director of the Superfund Division, during the week of April 19, 2010, *"the IEPA conducted private well location surveys and sampled a few private wells in the area. The private well samples were analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), metals, and cyanide. The results for the private well samples indicated no detections of VOCs, SVOCs, cyanide, or metal results above the removal action levels for drinking water."*

Could you please provide us with the analytical reports and specific sampling data for the private water well sampling above? I have attached a copy of the summary memo and a figure depicting the property location.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this request. We trust that the enclosed is sufficient for your current needs. Please forward the data output to:

Allison Fournier  
35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1250  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Email: afournier@wcgrp.com

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5  
77 W. JACKSON BLVD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



387367

11 MAR 2011

MEMORANDUM

**SUBJECT:** 0311775095 - Cook Co.  
Request for Approval and Funding for a Time-Critical Removal Action at the  
Markham Dump Site, Markham, Cook County, Illinois (Site ID # B5WK)  
FOS

**FROM:** Steve Faryan, OSC  
Emergency Response Branch 2, Section 3

**THRU:** Linda Nachowicz, Chief  
Emergency Response Branch 2

**TO:** Douglas E. Ballotti, Acting Director  
Superfund Division

**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Action Memorandum is to request and document your approval to expend up to \$396,000 to conduct a time-critical removal action at the Markham Dump Site (Site) located in Markham, Cook County, Illinois. The proposed time-critical removal action herein will mitigate the threats from lead contaminated soils and solid waste and hazardous waste in 55- gallon drums, compressed gas cylinders, plastic totes, and large sacks by properly identifying, consolidating, packaging, treatment and removal for off-site disposal.

The Action Memorandum would serve as approval for expenditures by U.S. EPA, as the lead technical agency, to take actions described herein to abate the imminent and substantial endangerment posed by hazardous substances at the Site. The proposed removal of hazardous substances would be taken pursuant to Section 104(a)(1) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42 USC 9604(a)(1), and Section 300.415 of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 CFR 300.415.

APR 16 2011



## II. SITE CONDITIONS AND BACKGROUND

CERCLIS ID: ~~ILSPN0507829~~ ILND006510534

Category: Time-Critical Removal Action

The Markham Dump Site is an uncontrolled and easily assessable open dump that has been the site of illegal dumping of solid and hazardous materials for as long as 30 years. A tire fire erupted in the spring of 2010 and brought attention to the open dump. The local fire and police responded to the fire. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) was alerted by the City of Markham in April of 2010, of the fire and illegal dump site located within the City of Markham in Cook County, Illinois.

IEPA responded to the Site and observed tens of thousands of tires, abandoned boats, solid waste and hazardous waste and chemicals in 55-gallon drums, compressed gas cylinders, plastic totes and large sacks of chemicals which were all abandoned on site. IEPA requested the assistance of the Illinois Attorney General's office to enter into an agreement with the City of Markham to set up concrete barriers, police surveillance, and security cameras to prevent additional dumping.

### A. Site Description

#### 1. Removal site evaluation

On April 7, 2010, IEPA responded to a tire fire at an open dump on the south side of Markham, Illinois. During the week of April 19, 2010, the IEPA conducted private well location surveys; sampled a few private wells in the area; conducted XRF screening of on-site soils; collected miscellaneous grab samples; and collected a sample from one of the on-site totes. The private well samples were analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOC), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOC), metals, and cyanide. The results for the private well samples indicated no detections of VOCs, SVOCs, cyanide or metal results above the removal action levels for drinking water.

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, U.S. EPA conducted a site walk through with representatives from the Illinois Attorney General Office and IEPA.

On May 10, 2010, U.S. EPA personnel and Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) contractor personnel conducted a removal site assessment. Four samples were collected from totes and drums and super sacks found on site, four soil samples were collected from the burned tire area, and 2 bulk samples were collected for asbestos analytical. The following potentially hazardous materials and containers were observed at the Markham Dump:

- White solid material lying on the ground and in 55-gallon poly drums suspected of containing pool chemicals (analytical results indicated a pH of 9.4 SUs and 4.5 percent chlorine for a sample from one of these drums);
- 2000-pound super sacks labeled "Sodium Tripoly Phosphate;"

- 300-gallon totes partially filled with a combustible liquid;
- Several 50-pound bags labeled "Ammonium Sulfate;"
- One partially (one-quarter) full drum of "Pyrazol Yellow BG Powder" (analytical results revealed that a sample from this drum had a pH of 12 SUs);
- Several gas cylinders (suspected to be empty), thousands of empty containers including poly, steel, and fiberboard 55-gallon drums; 5-gallon buckets; and
- Broken battery casings were observed in several areas and XRF and analytical samples confirmed highly elevated lead levels in the surface soils.

The northeast portion of the Site contains white solid chunks of chemicals lying on the ground which have been released from bags and super sacks. Field testing using pH paper of a rain puddle near these chemicals indicated a pH of 11 standard units (SUs), which indicates that the chemicals are leaching to soil. In addition, numerous other chemicals were observed in 55-gallon poly drums open to the atmosphere. Bags labeled "Ammonium Sulfate" also were present on site, and a sample collected from one of the bags contained 2,800 mg/kg of ammonia (as nitrogen).

IEPA reported that battery casings and lead contaminated soil were observed in an area of the Site near Oakley Street. U.S. EPA conducted an additional assessment of the area on October 26, 2010, and conducted a survey using an XRF unit and GPS unit. Six soil samples were collected for total metals and TCLP metals analysis. The results of the survey and sampling indicated there are two areas just off the former Oakley Street that contain elevated lead levels as high as 10,000 mg/kg and leachable lead concentrations which are considered to be RCRA characteristic hazardous waste.

## **2. Physical location**

The Markham Dump Site occupies approximately 12 acres on the south side of Markham, Illinois. Site coordinates are Latitude 41°35'48.59" North and Longitude - 87°40'22.16" West. The Site is bordered by 159<sup>th</sup> Street to the north, Dixie Highway to the east, the Calumet-Union Drainage Canal to the south, and Western Avenue to the west. The Site is located in a mixed commercial, industrial, and residential area. A church and at least two residences (abandoned) were identified within the boundaries of the Site. Homeless people live on the property. The potential exists for nearby human populations and animals to come in contact with these chemicals.

The Site contains a burn area where the tire fire occurred and former streets which allow easy access to the area for dumping. Along Leavitt Street, the following containers were observed: super sacks, totes, drums, miscellaneous small containers, and gas cylinders. The Calumet Union Ditch is located on the south side of the Site and it flows east to the Little Calumet River. Residences are located just west of the Site.

The area surrounding the Markham Dump Site was screened for Environmental Justice (EJ) concerns using Region 5's EJ Assist Tool (which applies the interim version of the national EJ Strategic Enforcement Assessment Tool (EJSEAT)). Census tracts with a score of 1, 2, or 3 are considered to be high-priority potential EJ areas of concern according to U.S. EPA Region 5.



The Markham Dump Site is in a census tract with a score of 2. Therefore, Region 5 considers this site to be a high-priority potential EJ area of concern. Five other census tracts within a one mile radius also have EJSEAT scores of 1, 2, or 3. Analysis of this area using the EJ Geographic Analysis Tool shows that the population is 98.9% minority, predominantly African-American, and greater than 11.9% of the population is living below the poverty level. Please refer to the attached analysis for additional information (Attachment D).

### **3. Site characteristics**

The Markham Dump Site is an uncontrolled and easily assessable open dump that has been the site of illegal dumping of solid and hazardous materials for as long as 30 years. The property is part owned by the City of Markham through a Public Sale of Real Estate for the non-payment of taxes. A tire fire erupted in the spring of 2010 and brought attention to the open dump.

### **4. Release or Threatened Release into the environment of a hazardous substance, or pollutant or contaminant**

The release and threatened release into the environment has been documented by the site assessment and sampling activities. Hazardous substances, or pollutants or contaminants have been observed leaking from their containers and have been documented by sampling events to be migrating via storm water to the adjacent canal.

### **5. NPL status**

The Site is not on the National Priorities List.

## **B. Other Actions to Date**

### **1. Previous actions**

The IEPA conducted a removal of the tires and solid waste during the summer of 2010. The IEPA removed 56,000 tires at an estimated cost of \$200,000. In addition, 689 truckloads of solid waste totaling 10,409 tons of material were removed and disposed of for a cost of \$813,000. Both the tire removal and solid waste removal came to a total cost of \$1,013,000. These funds were utilized by IEPA from tipping fees charged at landfills, and from the abandoned tire fund.

### **2. Current actions**

Currently the Site is secured with concrete barriers at each entrance except at the entrance to the church which has a chain with a lock to allow access to the church. The City of Markham is providing police surveillance and camera surveillance to prevent any additional dumping on the site.



REMEDIATION SITE  
BOUNDARY

NOTES:

AREAS OF DIRT PILES (AOC 8), BURNED TIRES AND WASTE (AOC 1) FROM OTIE AND IEPA.

AREAS OF AOC 8 MODIFIED FROM OTIE AND IEPA BASE ON MARCH 8, 2016 SITE VISIT.





**LEGEND**

APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF WASTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE ACTIONS

#### AREAS OF CONCERN

